

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT IMMEDIATE

USDEL USSCC GENEVA IMMEDIATE

TORREMOLINOS

AMEMBASSY SUVA BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY BANJUL BY POUCH

AMCONSUL CURACAO BY POUCH

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE BY POUCH

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

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EXDIS TOSEC 118 ZFF CAIRO ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF

SUBJECT: MIDDLE EAST SITUATION REPORT 98

1. MILITARY SITUATION: SYRIA CLAIMS THAT AT 0735Z THIS MORNING TWO FORMATIONS OF ISRAELI AIRCRAFT STRUCK ITS POSITIONS WITH SHRIKE MISSILES BEFORE BEING DRIVEN OFF BY SYRIAN AIRCRAFT AND GROUNDFIRE. LARGE-SCALE SYRIAN ARMOR MOVEMENTS -- POSSIBLY REPLACEMENTS FOR COMBAT LOSSES -- HAVE BEEN SEEN WEST-BOUND FROM THE MAIN DAMASCUS-AMMAN HIGHWAY. THE IDF SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE EGYPTIAN SECRET

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FRONT CONTINUES TENSE WITH ELEMENTS OF THE EGYPTIAN FIRST ARMY MOVING TOWARD THE CANAL FROM CAIRO. ISRAEL HAS FORMALLY COMPLAINED TO THE UNSYG OF FOUR EGYPTIAN CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS DURING THE DAY. THE BEIRUT PRESS ALSO REPORTS

ISRAELI SHELLING OF TWO LEBANESE VILLAGES DURING THE PAST 24 HOURS.

2. CASUALTIES AND POWS: THE IDF ANNOUNCED TODAY THAT SINCE OCTOBER 6 IT HAS SUFFERED 1,854 KIA; 1,800 WIA ARE STILL IN HOSPITAL. THE IDF HAS RECEIVED 113 NAMES OF IDF POWS FROM EGYPT OF WHICH 15 CANNOT BE IDENTIFIED AND REPORTS IT HOLDS 8,882 POWS OF WHICH 643 ARE OFFICERS.

3. EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY: ISRAEL TODAY GAVE THE UN PERMISSION TO MOVE AN ADDITIONAL 50 TRUCKLOADS -- FOR A TOTAL OF 175 -- OF NON-MILITARY SUPPLIES TO THE ENCIRCLED EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY. HOWEVER, ISRAELI PUBLIC DISSATISFACTION WITH THIS RELIEF EFFORT IS INCREASING IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY MOVE TOWARD EXCHANGE OF POW'S AND COULD TAKE ON AN ANTI-US TONE. DEMONSTRATORS APPEARED OUTSIDE THE US EMBASSY IN TEL AVIV THIS MORNING, PROTESTING ALLEGED PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO PERMIT RESUPPLY OF THIRD ARMY. MASS CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER MAARIV ALLEGES MRS. MEIR HAS TOLD HER CABINET THAT IN WASHINGTON SHE HAD REJECTED US DEMANDS TO KEEP OPEN THE RESUPPLY LINE TO THE THIRD ARMY AND TO PULL BACK ISRAEL FORCES INSIDE EGYPT.

4. UNEF AIRLIFT: FINAL USAF MISSION CARRYING ADDITIONAL IRISH TROOPS ARRIVED IN CAIRO THIS MORNING. SOVIET AIRLIFT OF FINNS AND AUSTRIANS IS CONTINUING AND WILL BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 9, BY WHICH TIME THE UNEF ON THE GROUND WILL NUMBER APPROXIMATELY 1665. ANOTHER 4359 MEN ARE NOW PROMISED, BUT USUN SUGGESTS THERE WILL BE TWO-WEEK HIATUS WHILE UN, CANADIANS, AND POLES SORT OUT UNEF LOGISTICS. ADVANCE CANADIAN LOGISTICS TEAM OF 11 WAS DUE IN CAIRO ON NOVEMBER 5. ASST. SYG URQHART HAS PRIVATELY EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN TO OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK ABOUT NEAR-MONOPOLY THE USSR THREATENS IN UNEF AIRLIFT BUSINESS. SAYS HE HAS NEVER SEEN RUSSIANS SO WILLING TO HELP. USUN URGES THAT US BE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE WHEN THE NEXT REQUESTS ARE MADE OF US BY UN.

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5. POLES IN UNEF: AMBASSADOR DAVIES REPORTS FROM WARSAW THAT POLISH DECISION TO PARTICIPATE IN UNEF IS UNPOPULAR; POLISH PUBLIC OPINION WARMLY SUPPORTS THE ISRAELIS; POLISH LEADERSHIP HAS HAD SERIOUS MISGIVINGS ABOUT DECISION IN TERMS OF DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS; AND POLES PROFESS WEARINESS AT PEACEKEEPING ROLES.

6. EUROPEAN POSITION: FOREIGN MINISTERS OF NINE COMMON MARKET COUNTRIES MEETING IN BRUSSELS ISSUED DECLARATION ON MIDEAST (A) STRONGLY URGING BOTH SIDES TO RETURN TO THEIR OCTOBER 22 POSITIONS, (B) CALLING FOR NEGOTIATIONS IN UN FRAMEWORK WITH SPECIAL ROLE FOR UNSYG AND SC, (C)

STATING ISRAEL MUST END TERRITORIAL OCCUPATION IT HAS MAINTAINED SINCE 1967, AND (D) AGREEING THAT SYSTEM OF GUARANTEES ARE OF "PRIMARY IMPORTANCE" AND RESERVING THE RIGHT TO MAKE PROPOSALS IN THIS CONNECTION. IN A STATE-MENT ISSUED FOLLOWING DECLARATION HOME SAID THE DECLARATION REPRESENTS MAJOR STEP IN PROCESS OF EVOLVING COMMON ATTITUDES TOWARD MAJOR INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS AND THUS A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY. THERE ARE INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, SOME EC-9 COUNTRIES ONLY AGREED TO SUPPORT DECLARATION AFTER PRESSURE FROM FRENCH AND BRITISH. BRANDT DECLARED TONIGHT THAT USING OIL POLICY AS MEANS OF POLITICAL PRESSURE WOULD NOT HELP ARABS WIN FRIENDS. HE HOPED FRG WILL APPROVE FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES. ITALIAN OFFICIAL SOURCES REPORT THAT DURING HIS NOVEMBER 5 STOPOVER IN ROME, EGYPTIAN FOREIGN MINISTER FAHMI WAS HARSHLY CRITICAL OF EUROPEANS DURING THE CRISIS FOR THEIR LACK OF UNITY AND THEIR DEPENDENCE ON THE US, ACCUSING THEM OF HAVING DONE NOTHING TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF PEACE. FAHMI, WHO BRANDISHED ARAB OIL WEAPON, WARNED THAT EUROPEANS WOULD HAVE TO "PROVE" TO ARABS THEIR POSITION IS NOT SAME AS THAT OF ISRAEL.

7. DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY: SECRETARY CONCLUDED HIS TALKS WITH KING HASSAN AND LEFT RABAT AT 1000 EST FOR CAIRO BY WAY OF TUNIS. NEWS REPORTS ARE STRESSING SECRETARY EXPECTS NO SPECTACULAR BREAKTHROUGHS ON TRIP. ROMANIANS REPORTEDLY OFFERED TO EBAN THEIR GOOD OFFICES IN BRINGING
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ISRAEL AND THE ARAB STATES TOGETHER FOR NEGOTIATIONS. KING HUSSEIN, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PRIME MINISTER AND ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF MET WITH FAISAL IN RIYADH, FLEW TO ABU DHABI AND KUWAIT FOR BRIEF TALKS WITH LEADERS THERE; AND THEN ON TO DAMASCUS. ZAYYAT, SADAT'S SPECIAL ENY, IS NOW IN LONDON FOR TALKS WITH HEATH. RUSH

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